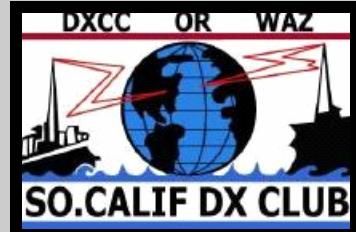


THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB INC

Since 1947



www.scdxc.org

Aug 2006

Next meeting Aug 10, 2006



MOTHER NATURES FOURTH OF JULY
ONE BIG SPARK GENERATOR



From Cape Canaveral, Fla.
Discovery, the first US rocket launch on Independence Day

July 4, 2006

Hams on board

Stephanie Wilson, KD5DZE Thomas Reiter, DF4DR Lisa Nowak, KC5ZTB

Reiter will join Jeff Williams, KD5TVQ and Pavel Vinogradov, RV3BS on the ISS. Tom Reiter is a European Space Agency Astronaut.



FROM THE PREZ

Bubba wants to start by thanking Jim, N6DHZ and Steve, W6NRQ for covering for me last meeting. I made my first trip to the East coast for a surprise to our oldest daughter in Ocala, Florida. I drove to Tucson once and have never been farther east. We had a great time and did all the tourist things. Janie, K6ZPL and I toured St. Augustine and I took a dip in the Atlantic. Then we headed home in front of hurricane Alberto.



We landed at LAX and met Larry, VQ9LA for a short visit. We talked while we got our baggage and Larry walked us out to meet our shuttle bus. I arranged to be picked up by one of my customers who has an airport shuttle service. Imagine my surprise when a new double stretch limo showed up to pick us up. They had dropped off a corporate client off and then picked us up. Larry thought I was some kind of rock star, but I straightened him out. We had a fun ride home. Oh the life of a window tinter.

Lets talk picnic! I hope everyone had a chance to look at our website and see the pictures of the 2006 event held a Woodley Park. Jim, N6DHZ, did his usual excellent job doing what needed doing and taking some great pictures. Keith, K6LD; Larry, K6YUI; Ernie, N6HY and Jeff, K6JW got there early and started getting ready for the rest of us. We all had a wonderful day with lots of food and deserts. There were more than one chocolate cake and they were all delicious.....Bubba knows, I tested them all.

Thank you to everyone who pitched in and helped make this picnic the best ever. Then we topped the day off with a drawing for an Icom IC-7000 radio. Congrats to Mel, K6SY and all the other raffle winners. Good job Jeff for another fine day. See you all at the August meeting.

Bubbas done.....over

THE VEEP

Well, I screwed up. I had a column all written for last month's newsletter and forgot to e-mail it to Steve. Silly me. But, then, it was mostly about the (then) upcoming picnic, which is now history. And what a picnic it was! Great food barbecued to perfection by Keith and supplemented with a cornucopia of side dishes. So, thanks to Keith for incredible job again this year. Other thanks go to Prez Bob for bringing the drinks. I had enough to do with all the other stuff that had to be luggered to the site, including chips, condiments, paper goods, all the raffle stuff and, of course, the IC-7000, which I had bought in Dayton at the show special price. Congrats to the winner of this little baby, Mel, K6SY, and to all the other raffle winners.



It's been suggested by one Club member that an announcement be made in each newsletter of the program for the upcoming meeting. We'd love to do this but, unfortunately, we generally don't have a definite program by the newsletter deadline. This has generally been the case in recent years, and I don't see the situation changing anytime soon. Finding programs that will appeal to the special interest nature of the SCDXC isn't easy, and arrangements are often made at the very last minute. Having said this, however, I'd like to invite anyone who thinks he/she could improve upon the current situation to volunteer. The Board would love it!

In the continuing tower saga, I can report that my application was considered at the 6/19 meeting of the Rolling Hills Estates Planning Commission. The loonies showed up in force to educate us all on how my hobby is going to cause cancer in the neighborhood and to warn everyone of my apparently secret intention of putting a flashing red beacon atop the structure. News to me.

The Planning Commission, being a political body, deferred any decision until 7/31, and requested that I submit additional drawings and erect not one but two mock-ups of the 55 foot tower (in different areas of the yard) for the members' inspection. I have complied with the former request but the latter, as you may imagine, is a nonstarter out of the gate. The Commission had other requests, as well, which were easier to address. So, I'm hoping for approval on 7/31. If it doesn't come, I'll be taking additional steps. I am fortunate in that I have virtually unlimited legal resources which I can access, should it become necessary to do so. My brother is a ham and a very good lawyer who successfully handled my case when I was sued by the Palos Verdes Estates Homes Association over my previous tower installation.

Remember the Summer Bash on Sunday, 8/20. It's going to be a...well...a bash!
73 es gud dx, JW, K6JW

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT
PLEASE READ
PLEASE COMMENT

A Message from the Board of Directors

It has been suggested to the Board that the SCDXC change the way it handles support of DXpeditions. Therefore the Board would like to get some input from the members before any possible changes are made.

Currently the club makes a donation of +/- \$2000 per year to the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF). Any solicitations from DXpeditions for financial support the club receives are acknowledged with a letter explaining the clubs support of the NCDXF and that we will forward the request to the NCDXF. This system has been in place since the early 1990s and has served the club well with minimal effort on the clubs part.

Some members have suggested that by using this system, the club does not get the direct recognition that we deserve from the DX community. With this method the club does not get it's logo on QSL cards, mentions of thanks in publications, presentations or Web sites. Also the NCDXF does not make available to the club how funds are spent or any sort of accounting. Other than the statement on their Web site (www.ncdx.org) that "The Foundation does not have a paid staff, and no Foundation officer, director or advisor receives a salary or compensation in any form". The club to the best of the Board's knowledge has not made a formal request for information on funding but in an informal conversation with the President of the NCDXF in 2005 we were told that such information is not made public. When donations are made to the foundation by the club we do not even get a letter acknowledging the donation. However the Board understands that they do make mention of it in their newsletter which the club does not receive.

The Board has discussed 3 possible paths the club could follow in this matter. (1) Keep the current system, (2) support DXpeditions directly instead of through the NCDXF or (3) support DXpeditions directly and donate the NCDXF but at a reduced rate.

(Continued on page 6)

DX FUNDING CONTINUED

(Continued from page 5)

For options 2 & 3 the Board has discussed the following. An advisory committee of 3 or 5 club members who would review funding requests and make recommendations to the Board. The Board would probably set strict criteria for the committee to use to eliminate all but the worthiest funding requests. The Board would handle the setting of criteria and the final decision to fund a request would rest with the Board. Also you should know that several members have already volunteered to serve on the advisory committee.

The Board understands that like no-code licensing members will probably have very strong feelings on this issue, and like no-code there will not be one answer that will please everyone.

Please take a few minutes and visit the club Web site at www.scdxc.org/view.html and let the Board know your views on this issue. We encourage you to use the form on the Web site but if for some reason you can't please e-mail your opinion to view@scdxc.org.

Thank you,
SCDXC Board



WELL.
IT COULD BE

Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that the Rolling Hills Estates Planning Commission has unanimously approved my tower application. There will now be a 20 day period for neighbors to appeal but, after that, I can get my building permit. If someone appeals, it could delay things somewhat, but the ultimate outcome is not in doubt. My tower WILL be erected!

73,
K6JW

CONGRATULATIONS JEFF
PERSERVERANCE IS
OUR MOTTO

THE EDITOR

What a month this has been. I moved from Hemet to the big city. Temporary of course until we find something. I will be going back and forth until the house is sold. I can't believe we used 4 dumpsters to get rid of my PACK RAT MENTALITY. The sad part is I can't take quick advantage of the 2 new countries. Can you believe it, 2 new ones.



I thought that with all my activity that this newsletter would be a small one and probably late. I had some things that I wanted to present that slipped into Senior Oblivion. Oh well, maybe it will come back.

This month I'm showing some Shuttle info only because of the people astronauts who are hams. Would be nice if this message of the ISS talking to school kids could get to the local newspapers and congress more often. Might even help tower problems.

In this months newsletter we have the beginning of a long, maybe tiring discussion. That of DX funding. As editor I will give my comments as I have done before. The 3 proposals as I see it are too simple in writing and too confusing in text

73 and Gud DX.

Tune in next month for other views, I hope.

Steve, w6nrq

QRZ Ham Radio Trivia!

- What well known movie star also invented "spread spectrum" communications?

George Scott

Q398] submitted by W5YI,

Humphrey Bogart

Hedy Lamar

Answer on page 8

Burt Lancaster

Test your Islands And solve the anagrams

A BENCH LOG ----- RODENT MET US -----

A BY LIE -----

See page 8 for answers

BEEN THERE DONE THAT
From Randy W6SJ

DX-Venture to The Bahamas III November 2005

Preparation may not be everything, but it sure helps. My previous two trips to The Bahamas had ended with mixed results and I was determined that this trip be a success.

The objective was to mount a DX-Venture to operate the CQ WW DX contest from a non-US location, and because of the excellent opportunities for chasing the elusive and worthy bonefish, The Bahamas had become the destination of choice. Grand Bahama Island is 75 miles from the Florida coast so it is easy to reach from the US, their currency is pegged to the US dollar, and the electricity is 100 VAC and is on all the time. Propagation to Europe is excellent and, of course, as part of North America, contacts with other NA stations would be worth 2 points.

Our hosts were North Point Riding Club, owned by some wealthy individuals as a private bone fishing retreat. Because of low usage and the need to cover expenses, when not re-served by the owners, the clubs 7 units are available to outsiders much as any lodge or hotel would be. In addition, because of the lengthy drive to Freeport, excellent meals are prepared and served by the clubs staff. Bottom line, its an excellent location for the XYL too.

Preparations revolved chiefly around assuring redundancy. On the last trip, my IC-706MKIIGs audio amp had blown and I was out of business only a few hours into the contest. Last Spring I built an Elecraft K2 complete with 100 watt amp and antenna tuner. With the original rig too, I was covered. I also took along an extra manual tuner just to be safe.

(Continued on page 9)

Trivia Answer

Hedy Lamar patented a frequency hopping "Secret Communication System" Aug. 11, 1942 as a way to keep the Germans from jamming radio controlled torpedo's during World War II

Anagram answers

A Bench Log = Long Beach Rodent Met Us= Mount Desert
A By Lie = Bailey

Finally, after spending too much time erecting antennas on a previous trip, I decided to operate 20 meters only. With the band not open for 24 hours, I was assured some sleep time. Propagation planning with the various programs showed excellent openings to most of the globe with the exception of Southeast Asia .

That meant that the antenna issues were simplified. I am a fan of Moxon antennas and so I built and tested one at home. On our previous trip I had shipped a 32 foot Aluminum mast and had carried 4-20 foot fiberglass fishing poles that were the framework that supported the antenna. These had been left at the club, so all I needed to take was the wire. I also took along a 32 foot extendable mast to be used as support for a dipole. We aren't forgetting redundancy, are we? I also wanted to do a little casual operating on 30 and 40 meters.

We arrived a few days before the event which left time to get antennas sorted out and try my station. Operating with the dipoles, I made over 500 QSOs including 3 to VK6 on 30 meters. On Friday, the wind subsided and the mast and Moxon were erected. A few casual contacts demonstrated that it was effective with true S8 and S9 signal reports coming in from Europe .

At 0000, 7PM local time, the contest began and I had done OK nailing down a frequency. I managed 120 contacts the first hour which was fine given the pandemonium. Things quickly settled down and after another hour of contesting, I hit the sack. I arose about 6:30AM and the band wasn't open all that strongly to Europe but it wasn't long that the signals came up and we were off to the races again. I was able to maintain good run rates, not possible as a little pistol from W6. I was not attempting to set any records and took time off for walking on the beach with my wife and to show up at mealtime.

We did get a 2200 projected opening to Japan but only managed 13 contacts plus VK and ZL and not a peep was heard from any of the HS stations. At that point, it seemed as if European 3 point contacts were just as valuable as JAs, and a lot easier. When I shut down in the evening, I had achieved more than 1,000 Qs, more than I anticipated.

On Sunday morning at 6:30AM the band was open with strong signals and I realized that I should have arisen sooner. At some point in time, every contest reaches the point where you have already contacted everyone in sight and you need fresh targets. This is especially true when you are operating on only one band. So I was wondering how long the run would last.

It turned out that there was a strong if sporadic flow of new stations, or those who remembered 20 meters and I ended up with over 1,500 Qs, a number that will be reduced slightly by dupes and mistakes. I had no particular expectations, so was pleased with that. I did have a goal to work 100 entities, which I did, barely, with my Bahamian neighbor C6AQQ being the 100 th ! I managed 30 zones, all but the ones in Central Asia .

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

What was amazing was to look at the 3830 reflector and see how many M/M DXpedition stations had over 5,000 Q's that I should have heard or should have heard me, but we didn't connect. The disappointment was totally missing anything happening in the Asian zones although I did make an effort to turn the beam that way, obviously not at the right time.

I seriously commend single band operation to anyone who is not up to the rigor of a total commitment to a 40 hour contest. I only operated about 23 hours, and certainly could have racked up more Qs had I just gotten up earlier and gone to bed a little later. But 1,500 was enough and I am pleased with the effort, and certainly the fun of earning DXCC in less than 24 hours of operating. It is also fun to be a sought after commodity operating from a desirable QTH. After all, I'm sure I was the only C6 contact with a number of those I contacted.

Even more fun was the fact that this was a Field Day type operation with most of the hardware going through airport security in my carry-on luggage. I did have the Moons mast there already but other than that, it all went with me. I think that this demonstrates that anyone can do this. You don't need to rent a big contest station to have fun and there are a number of locations, particularly in the Caribbean that can host such an operation. There certainly a number of entities that were not represented in this contest.

Finally, the fishing was excellent. The north side of Grand Bahama Island is one of the best places in the world for catching trophy bonefish. I caught a dozen fish, four of them over 5 pounds and the largest, a 10 pounder, is held in this photo by my guide Stanley.



WHO ARE WE

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Please direct all submissions to the editor.

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